Annual Report

—OF—

The Schools

—OF—

Wilkes County.

—FOR THE—

Scholastic Year Ending June 30, 1904.

PRESS OF
THE DIXIE PUBLISHING CO.,
MORAVIAN FALLS, N. C.

To the Friends of Education:

Believing that a better knowledge of what our public schools are doing will tend to create more interest in them, and asking a careful study of this report by the friends of education in the county, we give it to the public.

To the Board of Education of Wilkes County, N. C.

GENTLEMEN:—I herewith submit my report as Superintendent of the Public Schools of Wilkes County for the scholastic year ending June 30th, 1904.

Report of Townships.

ANTIOCH TOWNSHIP.

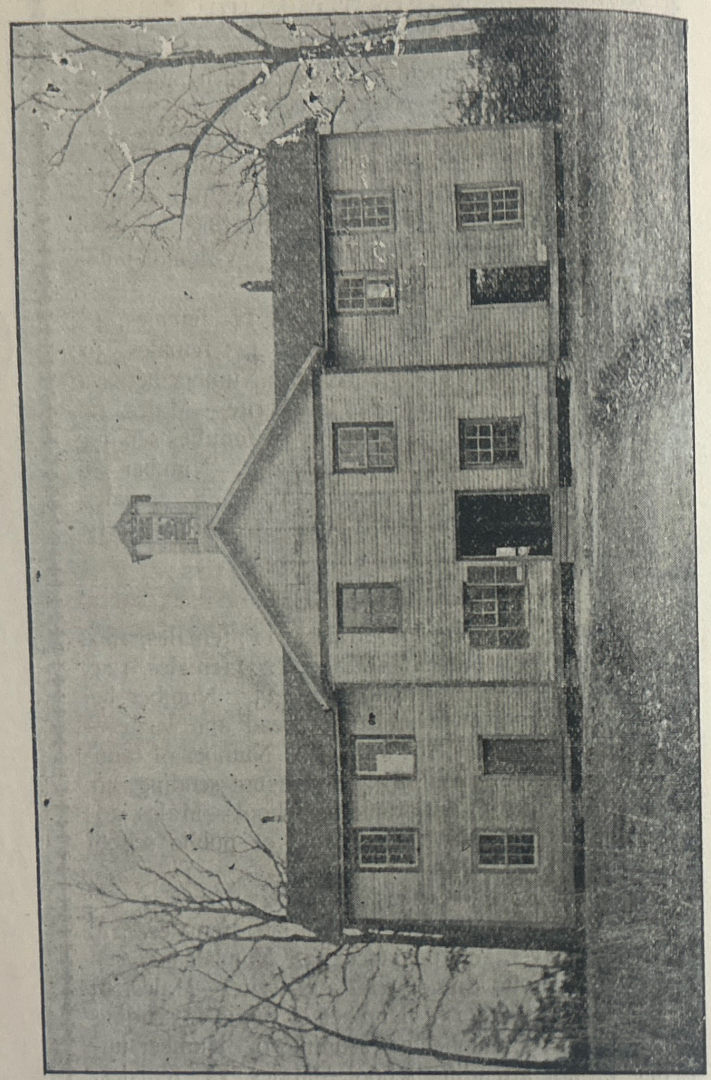
White Race.—Census: Males, 128; females, 136; total, 264. Enrollment.—Males, 87; females, 113; total, 200; average attendance, 99. Number between 12 and 21 who cannot read and write.—Males, 1; females, 0; total, 1. Number of families sending to school, 63; number not sending, 21. Number under 17 not attending school—Males, 34; females, 25; total, 59. Valuation of school property, $175.

Colored Race.—Census: Males, 33; females, 32; total, 65. Enrollment.—Males, 28; females, 28; total, 56; average attendance, 42. Number between 12 and 21 who cannot read and write.—Males, 9; females, 10; total, 19. Number of families sending to school, 16; number not sending, 5. Number under 17 not attending any school.—Males, 2; females, 2; total, 4. Value of school property, $15.00.

BEAVER CREEK TOWNSHIP.

White Race.—Census: Males, 83; females, 64; total, 147. Enrollment.—Males, 47; females, 39; total, 86; average attendance, 47. Number between 12 and 21 who cannot read and write.—Males, 0; females, 3. Number of families sending to school, 38; families not sending, 16. Number under 17 not attending any school.—Males, 16; females, 8; total, 24. Value of public school property, $150.

Colored Race.—Census: Males, 21; females, 19; total, 40. Enrollment—Males, 19; females, 14; to-



MORAVIAN FALLS ACADEMY.

8; total, 23. Value of public school property, $30.00.

JOB'S CABIN TOWNSHIP.

White Race.—Census: Males, 171; females, 203; total, 374. Enrollment.—Males, 107; females, 122; total, 229; average attendance, 118. Number between 12 and 21 who cannot read and write.—Males, 25; females, 25; total, 50. Number of families sending to school, 85; number not sending, 37. Number under 17 not attending school.—Males, 51; females, 54; total, 105. Value of public school property, $355.00.

LEWIS' FORK TOWNSHIP.

White Race.—Census: Males, 233; females, 231; total, 464. Enrollment.—Males, 191; females, 183; total, 374; average attendance, 206. Number between 12 and 21 who cannot read and write.—Males, 0; females, 7; total, 7. Number of families sending to school, 134; number not sending, 27. Number under 17 not attending school.—Males, 31; females, 16; total, 47. Value of public school property, $190.00.

Colored Race.—Census: Males, 5; females, 13; total, 18. Number between 12 and 21 who cannot read and write, none. No school property. No school taught.

LOVELACE TOWNSHIP.

White Race.—Census: Males, 173; females, 180; total, 253. Enrollment.—Males, 130; females, 130; total, 260; average attendance, 158. Number between 12 and 21 who cannot read and write.—Males, 47; females, 45; total, 92. Number of families sending to school, 83; number not sending, 27. Number under 17 not attending school.—Males,

34; females, 29; total, 63. Value of public school property, $370.00.

MORAVIAN FALLS TOWNSHIP.

White Race.—Census: Males, 231; females, 199; total, 430. Enrollment.—Males, 149; females, 128; total, 277; average attendance, 148. Number between 12 and 21 who cannot read and write.—Males, 26; females, 21; total, 47. Number of families sending to school, 101; number not sending, 27. Number under 17 not attending school.—Males, 67; females, 49; total, 116. Value of public school property $375.00.

MULBERRY TOWNSHIP.

White Race.—Census: Males, 368; females, 369; total, 737. Enrollment.—Males, 282; females, 275; total, 557; average attendance, 291. Number between 12 and 21 who cannot read and write.—Males, 59; females, 48; total, 107. Number of families sending to school, 216; number not sending, 52. Number under 17 not attending school.—Males, 46; females, 52; total 98. Value of public school property, $1,035.00.

Colored Race.—Census: Males, 20; females, 5; total, 25. Enrollment.—Males, 5; females, 3; total, 8; average attendance, 6. Number between 12 and 21 who cannot read and write.—Males, 15; females, 3; total, 18. Number of families sending to school, 3; number not sending, 5. Number under 17 not attending school.—Males, 5; females, 4; total, 9. No school property.

NEW CASTLE TOWNSHIP.

White Race.—Census: Males, 183; females, 192; total, 375. Enrollment.—Males, 110; females, 111; total, 221; average attendance, 108. Number between 12 and 21 who cannot read and write.—

Males, 7; females, 4; total, 11. Number of families sending to school, 76; number not sending, 11. Number under 17 not attending school.—Males, 10; females, 22; total, 32. Value of public school property, $283.00.

Colored Race.—Census: Males, 60; females, 54; total, 111. Enrollment.—Males, 41; females, 33; total, 74; average attendance, 35. Number between 12 and 21 who cannot read and write.—Males, 4; females, 0; total, 4. Number of families sending to school, 24; number not sending, 7. Number under 17 not attending school.—Males, 12; females, 11; total, 23. Value of public school property, $150.00.

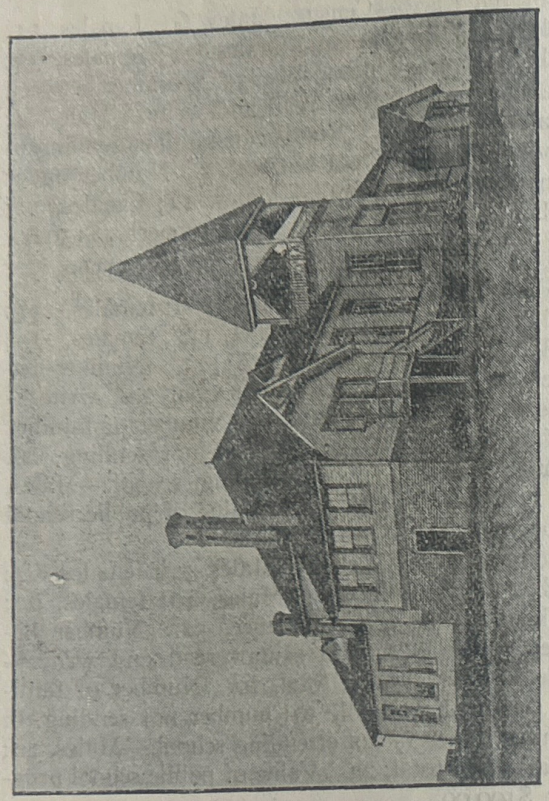
NORTH WILKESBORO TOWNSHIP.

White Race.—Census: Males, 179; females, 211; total, 390. Enrollment.—Males, 117; females, 115; total 232; average attendance 123. Number between 12 and 21 who cannot read and write.—Males, 6; females, 1; total, 7. Number of families sending to school, 133; number not sending, 26. Number under 17 not attending school.—Males, 43; females, 52; total, 95. Value of public school property, $725.

Colored Race.—Census: Males, 72; females, 64; total, 136. Enrollment.—Males, 40; females, 62; total, 102; average attendance, 51. Number between 12 and 21 who cannot read and write.—Males, 3; females, 7; total, 10. Number of families sending to school, 39; number not sending, 6. Number under 17 not attending school.—Males, 12; females, 10; total, 22. Value of public school property, $100.00.

REDDIE'S RIVER TOWNSHIP.

White Race.—Census: males, 416; females, 341; total, 757. Enrollment.—Males, 250; females, 211; total, 461; average attendance, 247. Number be-



N. WILKESBORO ACADEMY.

tween 12 and 21 who cannot read and write.—Males, 57; females, 43; total, 100. Number of families sending to school, 175; number not sending, 67. Number under 17 not attending school.—Males, 89; females, 72; total, 161. Value of public school property, $1,290.00.

Colored Race.—Census: Males, 8; females, 10; total, 18. Number between 12 and 21 who cannot read and write, none. No public school taught. No school property.

ROCK CREEK TOWNSHIP.

White Race.—Census: Males, 217; females, 194; total, 411. Enrollment.—Males, 146; females, 149; total, 295. average attendance, 127. Number between 12 and 21 who cannot read and write.—Males, 15; females, 11; total, 26. Number of families sending to school, 116; number not sending, 34. Number under 17 not attending school.—Males, 30; females, 19; total, 49. Value of public school property, $525.00.

Colored Race.—Census: Males, 16; females, 14; total, 30. Enrollment.—Males, 11; females, 4; total, 15; average attendance, 10. Number between 12 and 21 who cannot read and write, none. Number of families sending to school, 8; number not sending, 2. Number under 17 not attending school.—Males, 8; females, 6; total, 14. Value of public school property, $50.00.

SOMERS TOWNSHIP.

White Race.—Census: Males, 222; females, 173; total, 395. Enrollment.—Males, 153; females, 112; total, 265; average attendance, 137. Number between 12 and 21 who cannot read and write.—Males, 10; females, 18; total, 28. Number of families sending to school, 101; number not sending, 24. Number under 17 not attending school.—Males, 22;

females, 21; total, 43. Value of school property, $695.00.

TRAPHILL TOWNSHIP.

White Race.—Census: Males, 306; females, 319; total, 625. Enrollment.—Males, 215; females, 209; total, 424; average attendance, 191. Number between 12 and 21 who cannot read and write.—Males, 28; females, 23; total, 51. Number of families sending to school, 184; number not sending, 49. Number under 17 not attending school.—Males, 37; females, 38; total, 75. Value of public school property, $515.00.

Colored Race.—Census: Males, 39; females, 46; total, 85. Enrollment.—Males, 16; females, 27; total, 43; average attendance, 29. Number between 12 and 21 who cannot read and write.—Males, 19; females, 23; total, 42. Number of families sending to school, 16; number not sending, 14. Number under 17 not attending school.—Males, 16; females, 15; total, 31. Value of public school property, $95.00.

UNION TOWNSHIP.

White Race.—Census: Males, 319; females, 314; total, 633. Enrollment.—Males, 198; females, 171; total, 369; average attendance, 197. Number between 12 and 21 who cannot read and write.—Males, 59; females, 63; total, 122. Number of families sending to school, 139; number not sending, 43. Number under 17 not attending school.—Males, 65; females, 73; total, 138. Value of public school property, $990.00.

WALNUT GROVE TOWNSHIP.

White Race.—Census: Males, 319; females, 314; total, 633. Enrollment.—Males, 213; females, 196; total, 409; average attendance, 215. Number be-

tween 12 and 21 who cannot read and write.—Males, 16; females, 21; total, 37. Number of families sending to school, 161; number not sending, 33. Number under 17 not attending school.—Males, 25; females, 33; total, 58. Value of public school property, $540.00.

WILKESBORO TOWNSHIP.

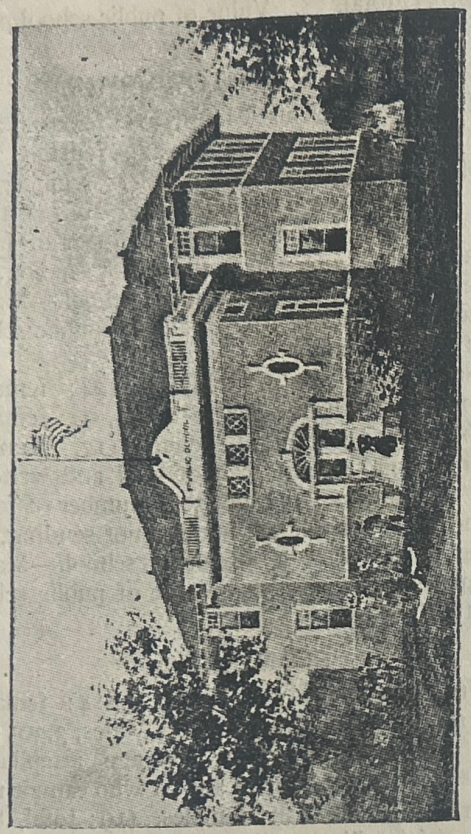
White Race.—Census: Males, 308; females, 286; total, 594. Enrollment.—Males, 223; females, 210; total, 433; average attendance, 284. Number between 12 and 21 who cannot read and write.—Males, 8; females, 5; total, 13. Number of families sending to school, 146; number not sending, 37. Number under 17 not attending school.—Males, 52; females, 49; total, 101. Value of public school property, $1,140.00.

Colored Race.—Census: Males, 124; females, 154; total, 278. Enrollment.—Males, 94; females, 137; total, 231; average attendance, 112. Number between 12 and 21 who cannot read and write.—Males, 19; females, 11; total, 30. Number of families sending to school, 90; number not sending, 11. Number under 17 not attending school.—Males, 20; females, 19; total, 39. Value of public school property, $310.00.

SUMMARY.

White Race.—Census: Males, 4,814; females, 4,566; total, 9,380. Enrollment.—Males, 3,305; females, 3,076; total, 6,381; average attendance, 3,384. Number between 12 and 21 who cannot read and write.—Males, 459; females, 419; total, 878. Number of families sending to school, 2,422; number not sending, 683. Number under 17 not attending school.—Males, 862; females, 820; total, 1,682. Value of public school property, $12,405.50.

Colored Race.—Census: Males 532; females, 525;



BOOMER ACADEMY.

total, 1,057. Enrollment.—Males, 337; females, 394; total, 731; average attendance, 411. Number between 12 and 21 who cannot read and write.—Males, 98; females, 83; total, 181. Number of families sending to school, 195; number not sending, 71. Number under 17 not attending school.—Males, 107; females, 106; total, 213. Value of public school property, $955.00.

EXAMINATIONS.

Certificates granted.—First grade: Males, 57; females, 15; total, 72. Second grade: Males, 30; females, 28; total, 58. Third grade: Males, 1; females, 2; total, 3.

LOCAL TAXATION.

During the sholastic year ending June 30, 1904, two special tax districts have voted a local tax to supplement their public school terms. We now have four local tax districts in this county, and a number of others will probably vote upon the question during the coming year. Our people are rapidly becoming alive to the fact that the only hope for popular education in North Carolina lies in the adoption of this system.

LIBRARIES.

Our county now has 12 rural libraries, the full number allowed us by law, and in addition to this has taken four of the six supplementary libraries allowed us. These libraries contain about 1,300 volumes, and from the recent reports of the librarians it is very evident that they are potent factors in the educational life of the communities where they have been placed. In addition to the libraries mentioned, I have been able during the past year, to place five traveling libraries in our county. These contain about 300 volumes, quite a number

of these being the best books of the world's best authors. It is our purpose to let these books remain a reasonable time in the districts where they are sent, and then pass them on to other districts. It has been no trouble to secure the services of a competent person at each place to look after these books. The good which will result from placing these books in the homes of many of our people in these districts eternity only can tell. We have also been enabled to add several volumes to our Teacher's Circulating Library during the past year.

TEACHER'S ASSOCIATION.

This body has held four meetings during the year, which have been well attended. The teachers are realizing that these meetings furnish them excellent opportunities for improvement, and they are taking more and more interest in the work of the organization as the months and years go by. This association has played no little part in the manifest improvement along educational lines in our county. The colored teachers also have an association which meets quarterly, and which is doing much good for the teachers of that race.

THE WOMAN'S ASSOCIATION.

On March 12th, of this year, we organized an Association for the Improvement of School Houses and Grounds. This body is a branch of the State Association, and its active membership is composed of the lady teachers of the county. This organization has already offered a scholarship in any summer school in the State as a prize to the teacher who, this year, shows most improvement in the school house and grounds. Some work has already been done along this line. Some pictures have been hung on the bare walls of a few of our school houses; some unsightly stumps removed from the grounds,

and some flower seeds have been sown to beautify the surroundings. This is a vast field upon which the noble women of our country are entering; the work to be done is great and the difficulties to be met and overcome many, but we have an abiding faith that the organization will meet and overcome all obstacles in the pathway to success.

CONDITION OF THE SCHOOLS.

The Rules and Regulations adopted by the Board of Education a year ago, and the system of gradation adopted for the schools were in successful operation last year. The schools have been made more efficient by these, the people have been stimulated to greater effort, and the school government has been less difficult. Much progress has been made in building the past year. The county has borrowed from the State Loan Fund the sum of $755.00, and has applications pending for $860.00 more. This money has been, and will be used for building and repairing school houses. Nineteen new frame buildings have been erected the past year. We have now in the county, for the white race, 91 frame buildings and only 12 log houses. New and up-to-date buildings are rapidly taking the place of the old time log school house, pictured so vividly in the minds of most of the present generation, but which is destined ere long to exist only in the memory of the past. For the colored race we have 8 frame and 6 log school houses.

During the year township meetings have been held in each township in the county. Most of these were fairly well attended by both teachers and citizens, and considerable interest was manifested. Another very gratifying feature of the work is that during the past year nearly all of our teachers have become subscribers to one or more educational journals. For a long time a great many of our teachers

have badly needed the help which these journals give.

The system of monthly examinations and reports by the teachers which were recently adopted by the Board of Education has been very satisfactory. Besides the two graded schools in operation in the county last year, we had 11 public schools teaching the higher branches; thus making practically 13 high schools in the county. While the schools were in session last year we called the attention of our teachers to the Sunshine Society and its work of love. The object of the society is to incite its members to the performance of kind and helpful deeds. A number of the teachers organized Sunshine Circles in their schools.

This brief report of the work done in the county the past year would not be complete without a reference to the observance of North Carolina Day in our schools. This day was observed by many of our schools, and at the close of the exercises several hundred of our girls and boys contributed a penny each to the Raleigh Monument Fund.

The Board of Education during the year just closed has done its work well. No men could have done better. The majority of our committeemen have done well in their work. The outlook is encouraging to the true friends of education. May we all resolve this year to do more than ever for the great cause in which we are engaged, and may God continue to bless us in the work. I am, with best wishes for the cause,

Most sincerely yours,
C. C. WRIGHT,
Co. Supt. of Schools.

Hunting Creek, N. C., July 4, 1904.

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